

Appleby Archaeology

Notes of the Committee Meeting held at 5 White House on Thursday 23rd May.

Those present were:

Martin Joyce (Chair), Martin Railton, Trish Shaw, Adrian Waite, Barbara Blenkinsip, Mick Yates.

Apologies were received from Phyl Rouston, Linda Ellison and Chris Wilson.

1/05/2019 Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of 21/2/2019 were approved.

Announcements: Martin Joyce opened the meeting by announcing to the Committee the resignation of Phyl Rouston with immediate effect. Her great contribution to Appleby Archaeology was acknowledged by all present.

2/05/2019 Matters Arising from those minutes: None

3/05/2019 Membership

The total number of paid subscriptions received so far for 2019-20 membership is just 44. The total number at the end of the 2018-19 year was 51 - so we're some way short of where we might have expected to be at this stage.

Martin Railton suggested that through Dig Appleby has 35 volunteers, some of whom we might reasonably expect to recruit as members.

Older members are retiring or moving away and those members need to be replaced and new ones recruited.

Trish Shaw suggested that we carry application forms at all times on workshops to help facilitate this recruitment process.

4/05/2019 Treasurer's Report

Chris Wilson, the Treasurer sent the current Accounts for consideration and has reported that our balance at the Cumberland Building Society stands at £1,173.00.

5/05/2019 Update/Dig Appleby:

Martin Railton updated the meeting on new recruitment to the project and reported that many volunteers are responding via social media and especially Facebook.

Two workshop sessions have been run to date including one on palaeography and another on geophysical survey techniques with a subsequent practical session on Brackenber Moor which may suggest there are a series of new settlements worthy of further investigation.

Martin Joyce reminded the meeting that some of the caves on Brackenber might also be worthy of further investigation and said that he had resumed badgering his contacts in the world of speleology.

There have also been two days of field-walking sessions with 15 people in attendance when, amongst other finds, an interesting arrowhead was found.

New sessions currently being scheduled include test pitting and other activities in Bongate.

There will also be a week of activities at the Alms Houses to be run in as a part of the national Festival of Archaeology. We will also be looking for a suitable site in Bongate which might lead to the possible discovery of a Mediaeval settlement.

Martin Railton suggested that, since in future he will no longer have access to the free loan of Wardell Armstrong equipment", we might use the "Digging Deeper" equipment budget to buy our own Resistivity meter. In addition to avoiding hire costs this might open other opportunities. For example we might recover some of the investment by hiring the kit out to other groups. Ready access to our own equipment might also stimulate interest within Apparch itself. There still remains £2250 in the budget for plant hire and welfare. There is a day's training incorporated into the costs of the equipment and Martin will also check on appropriate and relevant software. It was agreed that if everything still looks favourable, Martin should go ahead with this purchase.

Martin also reported that we are getting an advert for Dig Appleby in the Appleby Town leaflet.

6/05/2019 Correspondence

Martin Joyce reported that Gordon Teesdale from Hilton has found all sorts of industrial artefacts and had written, asking if the Society might be interested in investigating these further. Martin reported to the meeting that he had written back to Mr Teesdale and pointed him in the direction of Digging Deeper.

7/05/2019 Programme

30 people are attending the Warcop Range visit on Saturday the 25th of May as part of the Dig Appleby project.

Chris Wilson is leading a visit to Long Meg and two adjacent prehistoric cairn sites - Little Meg and Glassonby.

In July there is a planned visit to Eskdalemuir.

Regarding the 2019-20 lecture programme Martin Joyce reported that Richard Macgregor will be giving a talk about the Macgregor Clan in February, leaving us only April 2020 to fill in order to complete the programme.

It was agreed that we should aim to do this by finding a speaker to follow-up on the Eskdalemuir trip..

8/05/2019 A.O.B

Martin Joyce that he had scanned Phyl's archives of lecture write-ups and posted these on the website. We now have a more or less complete record of all Apparch lectures back to 1998.

He said that he is currently working on adding a database of 50,00 "Appleby residents" compiled by Chris Wilson.

Martin Railton said that he plans to attending a public meeting on the options for A66 redevelopment programme a in due course and intends to suggest that Appleby Archaeology Society might be involved in some form, either through the development's Outreach Programme or in some other capacity.

9/05/2019 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 26th September, 2 Banks Foot, Appleby.

